

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS.

Do "plants" for making pretty gifts grow up to Christmas trees?
And are "the son-sons' greetings" sent by salt sons of the seas?
Are Yule logs cut from snow drift-wood by Yuletide washers ashore?
And would you stub a mistletoe against a parlor door?
If Eve had tried from holly twigs a party gown to weave
Do you suppose that Adam would have called her "Christmas Eve"?
St. Nicholas in autoleigh defies police and laws.
Do regulations as to speed contain a Santa clause?
—Lippincott's Magazine.

CHRISTMAS DUSK.

Come, little boy, to mother's knee,
The Christmas twilight trembles down
With rose tints for the wondrous tree
And rose glow for the snow clad town.
And all is marvelous—but to you
Most marvelous of all to me,
For I may hold you as I do,
As Mary held him on her knee.

And he was sweet and he was fair,
As are all mothers' little boys;
His lips, his smile, his eyes, his hair,
To Mary were her chiefest joys.
And she would sing to him as I
Sing while the sun dies in the west;
I hear your weary, sleepy sigh
As Mary heard his on her breast.

And in the after years, I think,
When he was treading sorrow's way
And held the bitter cup to drink
She brooded on the happy day
When he ran singing through the room
And found a hundred things to do
To drive away all chance of gloom—
And was a little boy like you.

So drop your toys and let us sing
The songs that heart and home have
For love is more than anything
And life is work and play and rest.
And Mary's was the mother heart,
A heart of love all fair and fine,
That into tender throbs could start
For just a little boy like mine.

Across the years I reach to her
And touch her white and empty hands,
Down all the ages seems to stir
A message that she understands;
The subtle rapture that I keep
Shrined in the very soul of me,
When I may hold you here, asleep,
As Mary held him on her knee.
—Wilbur D. Nesbit in Harper's Weekly.

Before the birth of Christ
The ancient Romans indulged
at the midwinter season in a
festival from which it is sup-
posed that many of the pres-
ent day traditions sprung.
Gifts were given and re-
ceived. An expression of mu-
tual brotherhood was shown
in the custom of the masters
and their slaves exchanging
places and the former waiting
upon the latter.

Dixie's Noisy Christmas.

In lower latitudes, where the weather bureau makes even no pretense at supplying snow, says the New York Sun, the celebration of Christmas takes on a different manifestation. South of Washington Christmas has always been the day of great noise, the day set apart for the clangor of bells, the shrilling of trumpets, above all else the firecracker.

In the social conditions of the south before the revolution the day of noise and crash of gunpowder was the 5th of November, on which day all loyal subjects were adjured to "remember, remember the gunpowder treason and plot." The celebration of this noisy execution of Guy Fawkes by the loyal cavalier families of the south established a winter holiday of which noise was the predominant characteristic. After the southern colonies had joined equal hands with the northern in the long war, gunpowder treason was no longer the theme for celebration. But some celebration there must be to provide for the noise which had become a habit in the early winter. In the earlier times Christmas had been a day of sobriety out of doors, of lavish hospitality within.

What more natural, then, than to postpone the racket of gunpowder day until the next holiday in course and to give Christmas an outdoor element which it had never possessed?

Different Sorts of Christmas.

Each stage in our progress from the cradle to the grave has its different Christmas. Old age forgets itself, the ghosts which haunt its memories, and enters into the young creature's happiness with a relish second only to the child's. The grandmother no longer wishes sleds or hoops or gingerbread monkeys for herself, but she looks with love and wonder upon the little beings who respond so radiantly to these objects of domestic manufacture. Between these generations stand the parents, with their own lives of bustle and responsibility and desire, their own games and gewgaws to pursue, but yet with a beginning of the change from living for themselves to living in their young.—Norman Hapgood in Collier's.

It was in New York, or, rather, New Amsterdam, that Santa Claus made his first American appearance in something like the garb and manner now familiar to all of us. From the Netherlands the Knickerbockers brought with them the Christmas of love and sympathy in religion, of comradeship among neighbors and of festivity in the family.

MERRY

CHRIST'S coming inaugurated among men a new era of good will, and as a consequence thrones are tottering, chains are loosening, prison doors are opening and practical Christian beneficence is flooding the world with sunshine and fills it with songs of gladness.—Rev. Dr. P. S. Henson.

HERE is that "glad tidings," that gospel of "great joy" of which the angel spake to the wondering shepherds—this announcement of God's love for man and man's sonship to God. And these "glad tidings" are for "all people," so the angel said. There is not a single soul to whom the tidings of Christmas come that is not assured of the love of the almighty and infinite Father.

REFORM ye, then—so sounds the voice of the Eternal Spirit, the power back of evolution—reform ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! So we may gird ourselves to every task of reform with new hope and fresh enthusiasm and ring our Christmas bells again.—Rev. Dr. R. Heber Newton.

IT may be that in every gift with which at this blessed Christmas tide we gladden our children's hearts we are the Magi again offering treasure to the Holy Child. We may make it so. But richer gifts than these will be required. Our endurance shall be our gift to him who gave himself. Is there toll for us, that we may honor him? Is there self denial? Are there holy consecration and humble service, that shall make the world at last a spotless sacrifice to him who purchased it?

SO we keep Christmas because of its good tidings of great joy. The season of its occurrence is our ripest time. The north wind and the snow in that wind have made us what we are. It drove us to the hearth, to the sacred fires of the inner circle, to the building of the keystone in the arch of our civilization, the home of the Christian man.—Rev. Dr. S. P. Cadman.

TODAY all institutions are beginning to imitate the wise men from the east, who brought to the Divine Child their gold and aromatic spices, their frankincense and treasure. Christ's estimate of the value of childhood has conquered the world. His thought of childhood is the very heart and genius of Christian civilization.—Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis.

MORNING, noon and night, for breakfast, dinner and supper, the first thing on awaking and the last thing on going to sleep, every hour of every day of every week of every month of the year we want the spirit of Christmas, for it is the spirit of ministrations, of giving, of service, of doing for others.—Rev. Dr. Francis E. Clark.

AND did you ever think what a peculiarly blessed sound in the ears of those watching shepherds of the valley of Bethlehem was the announcement of the angels, "Christ has come?" Ever since the gate of paradise was shut against our first parents his advent had been looked forward to as the hope of a lost world.

STILL there is call for strenuous endeavor and constant fight against evils without and within as though God would remind us that this is not our rest, that the true holiday (holy day, as it used to be written) is above at his right hand.—Rev. Dr. P. S. Henson.

The best protest against the abbreviation "Xmas" is the suggestion that it should be changed to "Smas." Or, to most children, the day is "mas" and "mas," and to the grownups it is "Xmas."

The First Christmas Tree.

"The Christmas tree was introduced into England and thence into America by the Germans," said a dealer in toys. "I am going to sell Christmas trees this year, and recently I have been trying to find out who the man was who first exploited the tree outside of his German motherland. I want to use this information in an advertisement, but I have not completed my researches yet. I have got as far back as the time of Henry VIII. I have copied in my notebook an account of a Christmas tree that was trimmed and set up before that king." The dealer then read aloud the following paragraph, pointing out, as he proceeded, the quaintness and charm of the old spelling:

"Aragyste the XIII daye, or the daye of the Epiphanye, at nighte before the banquet in the Hall of Richebomde, was a pageant devised like a mountayne glistering by night, as tho' it had bene all of golde and set with stones; on the top of which mountayne was a tree of golde, the branches and bowes frayed with golde, sprallyng on every side over the mountayne with roses and pomegranettes. The wiche mountayne was with vices (screws) brought up towards the kyng; and out of the same came a ladye apparelled in cloth of golde, and the chyldren of honor called the henchmen, which were fresh disguised, and danced a morice before the Kyng; and that done, re-entered the mountayne; and then it was drawn backe, the wassell or banquet brought in, and so brake up Christmas."

There are many beautiful stories associated with the origin of the first Christmas tree. One legend says that on the holy night all nature, even the animals and the trees, was rejoicing and that the cedars, instead of pointing their branches upward as pointed, slender trees, spread their branches wide to protect the mother and her new born child.

The Sentries' Christmas Dinner

Raymond F. Sanford, a robust and healthy undergraduate of Cornell, lived for scientific purposes on 85 cents a week, his food including buttermilk, lentils, peanuts, raisins, cabbage, peppers, oatmeal and apples.

"I thrive on this fare," Mr. Sanford said. "I admit, however, that to stick to it takes will power. I have to govern my sybaritic propensities. I must not imitate the young sentries.

"There was once a Christmas masquerade ball in a European palace, you know, and a squad of young sentries stood guard out in the snow.

"Well, as the ball progressed the conduct of a certain guest disguised as a Santa Claus astonished and perplexed everybody. This Santa Claus would dance with the prettiest women for fifteen or twenty minutes, and then, hurrying to the buffet, he would drink a bottle of champagne and eat lobster salad, ices, caviar sandwiches, truffled turkey—everything in sight.

"The host, after several hours of such gluttonous and intemperate conduct on the part of the Santa Claus guest, conferred with his butler and to his amazement learned that the offender had by actual computation devoured forty sandwiches, sixty ices and eight quarts of lobster salad, while he had drunk thirty-one bottles of champagne and ninety glasses of punch.

"It seemed incredible! Yet there he was, as vigorous and fresh and sober as ever, now whispering compliments in a pretty matron's ear, now rushing to the buffet for more wine and more lobster.

"Puzzled and vexed, the host took Santa Claus by the arm and led him into a recess.

"Show me your invitation card," he said.

"But Santa Claus, alas, had none.

"Then unmask!"

"Dolefully the spurious guest obeyed.

"Why, you're one of the sentries!"

"Yes, sir."

"He was indeed one of the sentries—one of the squad of sentries stationed outside in the snow.

"These young men had hired a cheap Santa Claus makeup and, donning it one by one, had each enjoyed a brief but delightful share of the Christmas festivities—the dancing and lobster and champagne in the ballroom."—Washington Star.

In Holland—but always on Dec. 6 instead of the 25th—the little boys and girls put their wooden shoes in front of the hearths instead of hanging up their stockings, and the good old patron of children comes and fills them, and there is general gift giving.

The Cruller Lambs.

Our kitchen's nice round Christmas time! I can't see in th' great big pot; It's where th' crullers—they cum fum—An' what's inside is duffie hot! I must stand too near th' stove "Cause 'spatters' might get on my dress. My mother thinks that things round there Would burn her little girl, I guess.

An' so I stay real close to her When she puts agones round her waist And rolls th' rings out on a board. Sometimes she lets me have a "taste." An' then, you see, I'm helpin' too, I help her 'member she mus' make A lot of little cruller lambs— I like that kind of Christmas cake!

Th' lamb when he goes in th' pot He's yellow, an' he looks all flat, But when they lift him out of it, W'y, he's all brown an' round an' fat! I have to wait till he's "cooled off." "Fore I can have my lamb to eat; An' mother, she puts 'wool' on him 'Vif sugar—that's what makes him sweet.

An' after when my father comes, I get a lamb for him to see, My mother laughs at how he does; She says he's "big a child as me." She don't like lambs in bed, I guess, But father says to let me keep— It squeezed all tight up in my hands— An' that's th' way I went to sleep! —Marie Louise Tompkins in Harper's Weekly.

Fasting at Christmas.

When Cromwell ruled England he issued an edict against all festivities at Christmas. The festival was altogether abolished, and the display of holly and mistletoe and other emblems of the happy time held to be seditious.

In 1644 the Long parliament commanded that Christmas day should be observed as a strict fast, when all people should think over and deplore the great sin of which they and their forefathers had been guilty in making merry at that season.

This act so provoked the people that on the following natal day the law was violently resisted in many places. Though these scenes were disgraceful, they served their purpose and put an end to an unjust order.

When Charles II. regained the throne the populace once more made Christmas a time of rejoicing.

THE LOTUS "ROOMS"

Steam Heat, Running Hot and Cold Water in all the rooms.

Prices Reasonable.

Corner 6th and Locust St.

MRS. C. F. JOHNSTON, Prop.

T. H. WATHEN, Auctioneer
General Farm Sales a Specialty
Satisfaction Guaranteed
For dates write at
North Platte, Nebraska

DERRYBERRY & FORBES,
Licensed Embalmers
Undertakers and Funeral Directors
Day Phone 234.
Night Phone Black 588.

ORDINANCE NO. 73.

An ordinance of the City of North Platte, Nebraska, providing for and ordering the construction of paving and curbing in paving district No. 1 in said city to-wit: The paving and curbing of that part of Locust street lying between the south side of Ninth street and the north side of Third street; All that portion of Dewey street lying between the north side of Front street and the north side of Third street; All that portion of Pine street lying between the north side of Front street and the south side of Sixth street; All that portion of Front street lying between the east line of Vine street and the west line of Chestnut street; All that portion of Sixth street lying between the east line of Vine street and the east side of Pine street; All that portion of Fifth street lying between the east line of Vine street and the west line of Pine street; All that portion of Fourth street lying between the west line of Locust street and the west line of Pine street. And establishing the width of the several roadways to be paved and curbed, and providing for the determining of the material to be used for said paving and curbing and providing for letting the contract for said paving and curbing and designating the property to be assessed for the cost of said paving and curbing improvement.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA:

Section 1. That all that part of Locust street lying between the south side of Ninth street and the north side of Third street; all that portion of Dewey street lying between the North side of Front street and the North side of Third street; all that portion of Pine street lying between the north side of Front street and the south side of Sixth street; all that portion of Front street lying between the east line of Vine street and the west line of Chestnut street; all that portion of Sixth street lying between the east line of Vine street and the east side of Pine street; all that portion of Fifth street lying between the east line of Vine street and the west line of Pine street; all that portion of Fourth street lying between the west line of Locust street and the west line of Pine street, the same being paving district No. 1 of said City, and the same is hereby ordered paved and curbed to the established grade.

Section 2. That the width of the several road ways to be paved as aforesaid shall be 54 feet being 27 feet on each side of a line running through the center of said roadways, with the exception of Front street, which said roadway of said Front street shall be 47 feet in width from the east side of Chestnut street to the west side of Locust street, and the paving shall be 23½ feet on each side of the line extended 36½ feet from the south line of said street, same being the property line thereof, and the width of said Front street from the west side of Locust street to the west side of Vine street shall be 32 feet and shall be paved 16 feet on each side of the line extended 29 feet from the south line of said street, same being the property line thereof; and said curbing shall be constructed on each side of, parallel with and distant 27 feet from said center line of all streets in said district with the exception of Front street, which said curbing shall 23½ feet from the east side of Chestnut street to the west side of Locust street in said Front street, and shall be 16 feet from said extended line on said portion of Front street from the west side of Locust street to the west side of Vine street, and all said curbing shall abut said paved roadway.

Section 3. That the material to be used in the construction of said paving district shall be such as a majority of the owners of lots, parts of lots and pieces of lands in said paving district may determine upon, if such owners shall notify the city council in writing of such determination within thirty

days after the passage, approval and publication of this ordinance. If such owners in said paving district shall fail to designate the material they desire used for such paving in said paving district, in the manner and within the time above provided, the mayor and council shall determine upon the material to be used in said paving district.

Section 4. That said paving and curbing shall be done in accordance with plans and specification therefor to be made by the city engineer and approved by the mayor and council. That said paving shall be done by contract and said contract shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder after advertising for bids therefor for a period of at least ten days in some newspaper of general circulation, published

in said city.

Section 5. That the cost of said paving in said district, exclusive of street intersections and spaces opposite alleys, shall be assessed against the lots, parts of lots and pieces of lands in said paving district especially benefited thereby in proportion to such benefits, to be determined by the mayor and council, not exceeding cost of said paving and curbing improvement.

Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval and publication as required by law.

Passed and approved this 21st day of December, 1915.

Attest: E. H. EVANS, Mayor.

C. F. TEMPLE, City Clerk.

(SEAL)

THE BANK OF GUARANTEED DEPOSITS

Our Christmas Greeting

To each member of this community we extend the old, old wish that is ever new:

A Happy Christmas, and A Prosperous New Year.

The nations of the Old World are war torn; the hearts of their people are sad with a sadness indescribable. But for us there is Peace.

Let us therefore, mingle with our joy a Prayer of Thanksgiving that we of the United States have Peace all the hope that before another Christmas all the countries of the earth can celebrate

Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Men.

Platte Valley State Bank,
North Platte, Nebraska.

ASK FOR TRADING STAMPS

HEALTH HINTS

In case of poisoning. First send for a physician; second induce vomiting by tickling throat with feather or finger; drink lots of water, or strong mustard and water; swallow sweet oil or white of egg. Acids are antidotes for alkalies and vice versa

Section 1. That all that part of Locust street lying between the south side of Ninth street and the north side of Third street; all that portion of Dewey street lying between the North side of Front street and the North side of Third street; all that portion of Pine street lying between the north side of Front street and the south side of Sixth street; all that portion of Front street lying between the east line of Vine street and the west line of Chestnut street; all that portion of Sixth street lying between the east line of Vine street and the east side of Pine street; all that portion of Fifth street lying between the east line of Vine street and the west line of Pine street; all that portion of Fourth street lying between the west line of Locust street and the west line of Pine street, the same being paving district No. 1 of said City, and the same is hereby ordered paved and curbed to the established grade.

Section 2. That the width of the several road ways to be paved as aforesaid shall be 54 feet being 27 feet on each side of a line running through the center of said roadways, with the exception of Front street, which said roadway of said Front street shall be 47 feet in width from the east side of Chestnut street to the west side of Locust street, and the paving shall be 23½ feet on each side of the line extended 36½ feet from the south line of said street, same being the property line thereof, and the width of said Front street from the west side of Locust street to the west side of Vine street shall be 32 feet and shall be paved 16 feet on each side of the line extended 29 feet from the south line of said street, same being the property line thereof; and said curbing shall be constructed on each side of, parallel with and distant 27 feet from said center line of all streets in said district with the exception of Front street, which said curbing shall 23½ feet from the east side of Chestnut street to the west side of Locust street in said Front street, and shall be 16 feet from said extended line on said portion of Front street from the west side of Locust street to the west side of Vine street, and all said curbing shall abut said paved roadway.

Section 3. That the material to be used in the construction of said paving district shall be such as a majority of the owners of lots, parts of lots and pieces of lands in said paving district may determine upon, if such owners shall notify the city council in writing of such determination within thirty

NEW REMEDIES

are discovered every Day. We keep abreast with the Progress of Science and our Stock contains some of the very newest Drugs and Sundries. Besides we put Brains into our work, Honesty into our Material and keep Faith with our Customers. "If it's a Drug we have it or we'll make it."

J. H. STONE

ASK FOR TRADING STAMPS

The Nurse Brown Memorial Hospital

1008 WEST 5th ST.
NORTH PLATTE, NEB.
PHONE 110.

Ethical. Moral. Efficient.

This hospital is open for the reception and treatment of Medical, Surgical, and Obstetrical cases. This institution is modern, sanitary and well situated away from the noises and discomfort which are attendant on the city's center.

MRS. MARGARET HALL, Supt.
J. S. TWINEM, Physician and Surgeon.

Money to Loan ON FARMS AND RANCHES

Lowest Rates and Best Terms. Plenty of Money on hand to Close Loans Promptly.

Buchanan & Patterson